

## America's Lethal Politics

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# America's Lethal Politics

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD JUNE 14, 2017











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America's elected representatives enjoying America's pastime on a ball field just across the Potomac from the Capitol: A particularly American form of terror changed that idyll early Wednesday morning into what Senator Rand Paul, who was there, called "basically a killing field."

A gunman with a rifle fired dozens of rounds at members of Congress and current and former aides, who dove for cover. "He was hunting us," said Representative Mike Bishop, Republican of Michigan, who was at home plate when the gunman appeared. In all, four victims were hit, including Representative Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the House majority whip, who was in critical condition Wednesday night after surgery on a bullet wound to his hip.

An American would once have been horrified and shocked by such savagery. An American today would be right to be horrified — and not very surprised. This was one of two mass shootings in the United States on Wednesday. At a San Francisco UPS facility, a gunman killed three people and himself.

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The sentimentality behind the arms movement is precisely what the shooter exhibited: rebellion against the government. (What you will have...
- Peter P. Bernard** 1 minute ago  
I find myself captured by Rand Paul's observation; it would be poetic if the scene had not been so terrifying to those, like Rand, were...

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F.B.I. agents collecting evidence after the shooting at Eugene Simpson Stadium Park in Alexandria, Va.  
Al Drago/The New York Times

Not all the details are known yet about what happened in Virginia, but a sickeningly familiar pattern is emerging in the assault: The sniper, James Hodgkinson, who was killed by Capitol Police officers, was surely deranged, and his derangement had found its fuel in politics. Mr. Hodgkinson was a Bernie Sanders supporter and campaign volunteer virulently opposed to President Trump. He posted many anti-Trump messages on social media, including one in March that said "Time to Destroy Trump & Co."

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these to remember that everyone who serves in our nation's capital is here because, above all, they love our country. We can all agree that we are blessed to be Americans, that our children deserve to grow up in a nation of safety and peace."

Yet he will not help create that nation if he continues to advocate easy access to lethal weapons.

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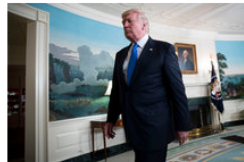
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